

known as Parla airport, though there is an airfield at Phaphamau in Pindra village under the control of Defence near Allahabad. There is no proposal for construction of residential-cum-office complex at this airfield. No land was recently acquired for this airfield.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

[English]

Performance of RRBs

771. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have lost their financial viability;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor indicating the progressive accumulated losses suffered by the banks since their inception; and

(c) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that during the year 1990-91 only 44 out of 196 Regional rural Banks (RRBs) could earn profits amounting to Rs. 21.47 crores as against a loss of Rs. 91.87 cores incurred by 152 RRBs. The accumulated losses at the end of March, 1991 was Rs. 363.91 crores. The reasons for the weak financial health of the RRBs are attributable to several factors like, restriction on the choice of clientele, limited area of operation, low interest margin, mounting establishment costs particularly after implementation of the Award of the National Industrial Tribunal etc. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group on RRBs (Kelkar Committee), several measures had been taken to

remove the financial weaknesses of RRBs such as enhancement of share capital, reduction in the interest rate on refinance from the sponsor banks, investment of RRBs resources in high earning securities etc.

Premium Charges form Handicapped Persons

772. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India charges higher premium on the insurance policies from handicapped persons in comparison to other people;

(b) if so, the details and reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to lower the premium charges on insurance policies for handicapped; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The Life Insurance Corporation of India charges standard/tabular premiums when there are no adverse features in the family or personal history of the proposer and his/her measurements like height, weight, pulse rate, blood pressure, etc. fall within the ranges fixed by the Corporation. In all other cases, the Corporation traditionally charges higher premium depending on the nature of the adverse factors of risk. On this basis, the Corporation is currently charging a flat extra premium of Rs. 2 per thousand sum assured in the case of policies on the lives of certain categories of handicapped persons. However, even this extra premium is waived for the first Rs. 10,000 sum assured.

(c) and (d). The Corporation's practices

of charging extra premium and granting accident and disability benefits to handicapped persons is reviewed periodically. With the result, the life Insurance Corporation of India is granting life insurance without charging any extra premium for the first Rs. 10,000 sum assured, with effect from May, 1981. From August, 1989, further relaxations have also been made as detailed below:-

- (i) No extra premium is charged in the case of partially handicapped persons like those who have lost only one eye or one leg or one hand, etc.
- (ii) In respect of such partially handicapped persons, both accident and disability benefits are being granted.
- (iii) The extra premium charged in the case of totally handicapped persons (those who have lost both legs or both hands or totally blind, etc) has been reduced to the current rate of Rs. 2 per thousand sum assured from the earlier charges of Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 per thousand sum assured.
- (iv) A restricted accident benefit is also being granted to the totally handicapped persons.

Posting of Staff in Bank Branches in Punjab

773. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks are facing difficulty in posting their staff in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for posting of staff in branches of nationalised banks in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in Foreign Exchange Reserves and Foreign Debt

774. SHRITARIT BARAN TOPDAR: SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the increase in foreign exchange reserves the amount of foreign debt has also increased; and

(b) if so, the total amount of increase in foreign debt recorded in the meantime and ratio between the two?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increase in foreign debt outstanding which includes all transactions, private and public, relating to actual disbursements and repayments is normally computed at the end of the financial year only, and hence, the ratio can be arrived at only after addition to debt outstanding is computed.

Exports and Imports

775. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: